

# THE ALMA RECORD.

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ALMA, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY AFTERNOON, JANUARY 17, 1918

WHOLE NUMBER 2026

## DEATHS CAUSED BY ACCIDENTS

John Brink, Painter and Decorator Suffered Broken Neck Friday Lived Five Days.

## CLYDE DUTT ELECTROCUTED

Working Around High Tension Wires of Lighting Company, and in Some Way Got Wrong Wire.

Alma has been the scene of two terrible accidents during the past week both of which cost the lives of the principals, one being killed instantly by electrocution and one living five days, after being fatally injured as a result of a fall.

John Brink, aged about thirty-five, local painter and decorator, was fatally injured late Friday, while working at a residence on Downey street. It seems that he was working on a ladder and that he slipped on a little ice which was upon one of the steps, and fell to the ground.

He struck in such a manner as to fracture his neck. He was rushed to Brainerd hospital, where everything that was possible was done for him. It was decided to take him to Ann Arbor for treatment in the hope that his life might be saved, but because of the blizzard he could not be sent to the hospital there until the first of the week, as no trains were running.

Reports from Ann Arbor yesterday afternoon conveyed the information that he died there about noon, the neck had been broken from his fall.

He has a brother in this city, and the two had been working under the name of Brink Bros.

Clyde Dutt, aged about thirty-five, was electrocuted yesterday, soon after noon, while working on some high tension wires of the Central Michigan Light & Power company, in front of the Maxwell garage on Pine avenue.

Just how Dutt managed to get into contact with the high voltage wire is not clearly explained. It was necessary to turn off the current to release him.

He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. C. Dutt of this city, and besides his parents leaves a wife and young daughter, two brothers, Lieutenant Charles Dutt of the U. S. army and Rev. Dutt of St. Louis, and one sister, Miss Ruth Dutt, to mourn the loss.

## RED CROSS

Mrs. H. H. Soule Made Chairman to Succeed Mrs. C. B. Gardner.

Mrs. Henry Soule has accepted the chairmanship of Red Cross chapter of Alma, taking the place of Mrs. C. B. Gardner, who leaves soon for Jeffersonville to remain with Lieutenant Gardner, as long as he is stationed there. Mrs. Frank Barnes is vice-chairman, and Mrs. Day, secretary. Mrs. Soule has appointed the following chairmen of the different departments, and it will simplify matters if all workers and inquirers keep these names in mind.

Mrs. Wilcox and Mrs. Geo. Sharrar—gauze.

Mrs. Geo. Moore—Yarn and knitted garments.

Mrs. Geo. Garrett—Bandages.

Mrs. Frank Barnes—Hospital garments.

Mrs. Bernice Carr and Mrs. Phillips—making and distributing the cretonne comfort bags for filling.

Mrs. Ezra Smith—With following committee, school organization, Mrs. Pringle, Mrs. Priest, Mrs. Kate Codington, Miss Dunlap, Miss Annett McLaren, Prin. Leuchman and Rev. Duffy.

Mrs. Gill and Mrs. Bamber—Packing and shipping boxes.

The Red Cross Headquarters are a suite of three rooms at the south end of the hall on second floor of the Polasky block. The rooms are well heated free of charge and half the expense of the light is donated by the Consolidated Co. Later, when the weather is warmer, the chapter will probably return to the former quarters at the Masonic Home. The chapter is glad to announce to the public the following news fresh from the books of the secretaries:

Have packed and shipped 654 knit garments besides 52 pairs of socks; 225 "housewives;" 126 hospital garments; 58 bundles of gauze; 26 doz. handkerchiefs, and 75 well filled comfort bags.

The outstanding chapters affiliated with Alma are Arcadia and Forest Hill. There is also a well organized branch at the Republic.

We wish to thank all who in any way have made it possible for us to reach this splendid mark; those who have furnished rooms, light, boxes for packing and the press for the free use of the columns.

## BISHOP WILLIAMS COMING

Bishop Williams will be in St. John's parish on Tuesday, January 22. The Rite of Confirmation will be administered at the service which will be held at 7:30 p. m. Attempts are being made to have the Bishop speak for the Red Cross at the same place in the afternoon. Definite information will be published on Sunday should the Bishop be coming in sufficient time.

## COMMUNITY SINGING

Over One Hundred Braved Storm Sunday to Take Part in Singing.

The Liberty Chorus, as the community singers are to be known, seems now to be an assured success, when one hundred and thirty-five people in this city will brave the rigors of a storm such as Alma had Sunday to turn out and take part in the singing.

Those who turned out certainly spent a most profitable and instructive hour under the direction of Prof. Horton and Miss Jones. Mrs. Soule was at the piano.

Between the songs those present had the pleasure of hearing a short address on the 'why' of community singing, by L. A. Sharp. Mr. Harrison Bliss, the new welfare man at the Republic, favored those present, with a solo.

Next Sunday the community singing will take place at the Presbyterian church at 4:00 p. m. Addresses will be made by the president, Mrs. D. L. Johnson, and William A. Bahlke. Special songs are promised for this meeting, and everyone is urged to be present.

## ENLISTMENTS WERE HIT BY STORM THIS WEEK

Seven Young Men, Including College Athletes, Enlisted Here During Past Week.

The local recruiting office did not get the number of enlistments this last week, which it had hoped to have, possibly because of the inclemency of the weather, which caused the cancellation of trains, kept farmers and others from the city and kept those here in doors as much as possible for a few days.

This would naturally prove a hindrance to the recruiting, and it seems now that the three men who are working on the recruiting here this month will have to go some to top the forty mark this month. They still have hopes however of getting the number.

To this end C. C. Cote will go to Breckenridge for three days and Tom Boston will go to Shepherd for two days to drum up recruiting in those places.

They call attention to the fact that the administrations bill providing for the registering of men as they reach the age of twenty-one, has been introduced into congress and has every likelihood of passing, which may prove to be the means of keeping some of these men from enlisting later, if they do not take the step before being required to register, following the passage of the bill.

The recruiting office reports seven enlistments for the week, the number being topped by two members of the Alma college football team of 1917, champions of the Michigan Intercollegiate, Carlton Spooner and John Lott, the Ithaca giants.

The men enlisted are Delta C. Parrish, Clayton Mallory, Jennings B. Donaldson, Chester Welch, Carlton Spooner, John R. Lott and Jay Prescott.

## NEW SCHOOL

School Board Will Call Meeting of Voters Very Soon.

Supt. A. F. Schultz of the Alma public schools told the Alma Record reporter yesterday, that the school board would hold a meeting this week, at which time it was expected that the board would call a meeting at which time the proposition of a new school for the city of Alma would be taken up.

He also said that at the end of December the enrollment of the local schools had reached within three of 1,500 and that since that time over twenty new students have entered the public schools, giving the largest enrollment in the history of the schools, and also indicating that the city of Alma is continuing its stride to the front.

Regarding a new school he said that if the proposition was taken up at once, that there would not be any too much time in which to get a building under way and completed before the schools open again next September, when a new building will be a positive necessity.

According to the present ideas, it is gathered that the plan is to construct an eight room school house in the eastern end of the city, of a permanent nature, probably on the Elmwood subdivision site at the corner of Republic and Eastward streets.

It is expected that the date of the meeting of the voters of the school district, at which the matter will be taken up, will be given out next week.

## LECTURES FRIDAY

Dr. R. Parkin, director of the Rhodes scholarships, will lecture in the Alma college chapel Friday morning on the subject, "The Relation of American and British Democracy to the War." Dr. Parkin is a noted author and traveler, and has received many honorary degrees from Oxford (England) university and other noted schools, and is a most capable man. He is certain to give an interesting address on this matter which will be well worth the hearing.

Circulation counts—we have it.



SCENE IN COURT ROOM AT MRS. JOHNSON'S HEARING

This picture shows the circuit court room at Ithaca, where the hearings of Mrs. Inez Johnson, Albert Eichorn, and John F. Brennan were held. When the picture was taken the hearing of Mrs. Johnson was nearing its end. The view shows the interest Mrs. Johnson was taking in the proceedings, and also indicates that this one of the alleged trio implicated in the murder, was not greatly worried over it.

The picture shows Mrs. Johnson in the center. Just to her right is a brother-in-law of John Brennan, and then to the right are the attorneys for the defense, C. H. Goggin of Alma, Fred Travers of Saginaw, and Stone of Ithaca. Just behind Stone is Lin Caldwell, court stenographer.

This is one of the first times on record, when court was stopped to take a flashlight of the court proceedings. It was necessary to obtain consent of five attorneys and Justice Salter to snap this view for the Alma Record readers.

## BOUND OVER ON MURDER CHARGES

Albert Eichorn, John Brennan and Mrs. Inez Johnson Face Trial For Murder.

## THE HEARINGS ENDED MONDAY

Justice Salter Bound Trio Over To Circuit Court at Next Term on First Degree Murder.

The hearings of Albert Eichorn, the Ithaca farmer, John F. Brennan, the Flint showman, and Mrs. Inez Johnson, alleged disorderly house keeper of this city, were brought to a close Monday with the binding over of the three to the next term of court on charges of first degree murder. Under the charges on which they were bound over to circuit court by Justice M. R. Salter of Ithaca, none of the three will have a chance to get bail. They will come up for trial at the February term of circuit court.

The hearing of John F. Brennan was taken up last Thursday afternoon, and continued over to Friday morning, and then the hearing of Mrs. Inez Johnson was started and this was not concluded until Monday afternoon.

When Brennan's hearing was held Mrs. Epler was called to the stand to identify portions of the girl's clothing which had been worn by her on the day of the murder, and which, when exhibited in the court room, were badly torn. They were identified by Mrs. Epler, who said that they were not torn when worn by her daughter Beatrice Epler, before the murder.

Ray Hodges, the son of a restaurant owner in Ithaca was called to the stand, and identified Brennan as the man, who in company with Eichorn, had taken a meal at the restaurant on the day following the murder, thus establishing the fact that Eichorn and Brennan knew each other and were friendly at the time and were going around together.

Gertrude, the little thirteen-year-old daughter of Mrs. Hiram Gilson, who has been the feature of the three hearings, because of her testimony, which could not be shaken by the defense, told the story of the party at her mother's house on the night of the murder as she knew it. She told of being awakened after going to sleep, by hearing her father slam a door leading into his room, and heard him say, "I've a notion to put the whole d— bunch out doors."

She told of hearing Mrs. Inez Johnson say, "G— D— you Miss Epler," and of hearing both Eichorn and Brennan talk in the next room. She could not tell what either Brennan or Eichorn had said, but was positive that she recognized their voices, as she had the voice of Mrs. Inez Johnson, when she swore at the Epler girl. She also told of hearing scuffling in the room next to hers and of hearing the Epler girl scream twice in the room. Later she heard the Epler girl scream out at the side of the road, after her father had ordered the bunch from the house.

Coroner Will K. Ludwig was called to the stand again in this hearing and told of the finding of the body and of the condition of the body at the time. He was cross examined at some length, but not to the extent that he was in the hearing of Mrs. Johnson which followed.

Treva Sanderson, a sixteen year old Alma girl followed him to the stand. She told of coming home (she lived in Millerville) on the Saturday night previous to the murder, along about 8:00 p. m. She said that as she got in front of the house an automobile drove up in front of Mrs. Johnson's house and that Eichorn got out of the auto. She said that the auto then went on to the corner and turned around and came back to this place, and was then facing towards town. She told of Mrs. Johnson's calling her

over to her house and of her asking Treva to go out with Brennan, or Kelly, as he was then called. She said that she refused to go, and that Eichorn told her she had better go as Kelly or Brennan, had a roll of bills as big as her arm. She said that she was introduced to Brennan as Kelly and that he also tried to get her to go out with him, but that she refused. She identified the man introduced to her as Brennan. Her testimony before the court indicated that Brennan and Eichorn had been acquainted and out together before the murder, as Hodges testimony showed that they were together following the murder.

When the hearing of Mrs. Johnson started Friday morning Chas. Hooper, who found the body of the Epler girl at the corner of the pasture on the Hooper farm, was called to the stand. He told of the finding of the body, under the questioning. He said that he got up about 4:30 a. m. and started for the pasture, and that when he arrived there he noticed something white in the corner of the out field adjoining, which was in a small clump of bushes. He looked again and then saw that it was the body of a woman. He said that he thought she might be sick or something and that he went over to the body and touched the arm and then saw that it was Miss Epler and that she was dead. He said that he ran to the house and notified his father, who went after Dr. Brainerd.

He told of Mr. Epler coming down the road, just before his father and the doctor arrived, and of his stopping near the corner of the field and looking over in the direction of the body and seeing it, and of his yelling, just as his father and the doctor arrived, "Boys, come here."

He told of the calling of the coroner, and of the location of the packages, three in number, which were found beside the body of the girl. They were laying one next to the other, just as though placed there by someone, he said. Her slippers were off, and lying near the body, and her right stocking was torn, he said. He said that they didn't think to look for tracks there.

Coroner Will K. Ludwig was again called to the stand in the Johnson hearing. Ludwig again told of the condition of the girl's body, the position of her hat, pushed back on her head, and coat, which was on, but unbuttoned and thrown back. He stated that Dr. Brainerd made the examination, and that there were marks on the sides of the throat which were finger prints, and that froth was coming from the mouth. He also told of the autopsy at the undertaking rooms.

On the cross examination conducted by Attorney Stone, he was grilled as to the marks on the throat. He was asked to state the size of the prints and said that he could not. He said that there were indentations which indicated that she had been choked. He stated that there was very little discoloration where the spots were.

He was asked by Attorney Stone to indicate the size of the marks on a piece of paper and he said that he could not. He said that he had depended upon the doctor in such matters. It was plain that he defense was making an attempt to show that Beatrice Epler might have come to her death through some other means than strangulation.

Treva Sanderson was called to the stand again and she told of having been on the porch of her home on the evening of the murder and of having seen the Epler girl come from the west, and of her having stopped and talked with Mrs. Johnson who was on her front porch. She said that she did not hear the conversation. She also stated that the Epler girl had two or three packages at the time. She said that Miss Epler had talked with Mrs. Johnson for about five minutes.

She also stated that on the following afternoon Mrs. Johnson had told her and another neighbor that Beatrice Epler had been at her home two or three times the evening previous, this having been the night of the murder. Cross examination failed to shake her story.

The hearing was adjourned until Saturday, but the blizzard of Saturday was such that it was impossible for the Alma witnesses to get back to Ithaca, or for Attorney Travers of

(Continued on page four.)

## THE ALMA BANKS ELECT OFFICERS

Mr. Sharp, President First State and Mr. Bahlke, President State Savings Bank.

## THE DIRECTORS ALSO CHOSEN

Condition of Both Institutions Shown To Be Fine When Annual Reports Were Given.

The annual meetings of the Alma State Savings and the First State banks of this city were held Tuesday evening and directors and officers for each of these institutions elected for the coming year.

At the annual meeting of the stockholders of the Alma State Savings bank held at the bank, the following directors were elected: William A. Bahlke, Jotham Allen, George C. Parsons, James E. Mitchell, Daniel Sharf, Dr. E. A. Bagley and Karl R. Adams.

This was followed by the election of officers by the directors. The officers elected are president, William A. Bahlke; vice president, Jotham Allen; cashier, Karl R. Adams; auditor, Flora Wise.

The capital and surplus and undivided profits of the bank are now \$56,902.61. The bank was organized in 1901 and since that time has enjoyed a steady growth, the last year being the banner year in its history. Footings at present show \$628,926.60.

The annual meeting of the stockholders of the First State bank was held Tuesday evening and the old directors were all re-elected, and following their election they elected the following officers: president, L. A. Sharp; vice president, Francis King; cashier, Carl H. Washburn.

The directors are L. A. Sharp, Francis King, Carl H. Washburn, Chas. G. Rhodes, P. M. Smith, C. O. Ward and H. H. Soule.

The maximum resources of the bank have increased during the past year and are now \$1,404,937.66. The bank has paid to its stockholders an annual dividend of seven per cent and has paid out a large sum to the depositors of the bank. The annual statement shows an increase of 1274 book accounts during the year, indicating the healthy condition of the institution.

## WAR SAVINGS

Public Schools Here to Encourage the Purchase of War Savings Stamps.

Superintendent of Schools, A. F. Schultz has been interested in the War Savings Stamps, which the Government now has on sale, and at a recent meeting of the school teachers, took the matter up with them and the students of the schools, through the superintendent and the various instructors are to be encouraged to purchase War Savings stamps and Thrift stamps.

The former school savings, by which means numerous students were able to make small deposits, has been dropped, the thrift stamps and war savings certificates offering a better opportunity for the students as under the new order they will be able to secure interest on their deposits or loans to the government when they have one war savings certificate, as these pay four percent.

It is the intention of the county committee to interest the other schools of the county in the matter just as rapidly as possible and to get everything ready for the school campaign, which will probably start about February 1.

The small savings of the school children invested in this manner are certain to make a remarkable total, and with the active co-operation of the instructors there is certain to be a larger number of such investments made, all of which aid in furnishing the government with money which will go to defeat the Hun.

## BOYS' CONFERENCE

Older Y. M. C. A. Lads will Hold a Conference Here Feb. 1 and 2.

The Third Annual Older Boy's conference of Gratiot county will be held at Alma Feb. 1st and 2nd.

The object being to get the boys representing Sunday school classes, Y. M. C. A. Groups, High schools and other boy organizations between the ages of 15 and 20, together to discuss the theme: Produce—Sacrifice and Live.

The conference will be opened with a banquet on Friday evening at which time the subject of discussion will be Produce. Saturday morning the subject will be Sacrifice and at the afternoon session it will be Live. These sessions will be held in the Alma college chapel. Each subject will be dealt with by boys, together with an older speaker.

A more complete statement of the program will be given next week.

Sunday school teachers, Y. M. C. A. Group leaders and others interested in Gratiot county's boys, please remember the date and plan on helping make the conference a SUCCESS.

## ALMA WAS VISITED BY SEVERE BLIZZARD

City Snowbound Without Trains For Two Days, Great Drifts Being Piled Up.

When it comes to snow storms the one that swept over Michigan Saturday and Sunday will probably hold down first honors for years to come with the great fall of snow, the high wind and the low temperature, all of which combined to make a great deal of suffering.

Reports indicate that a number of persons in various parts of the state lost their lives through being frozen.

The snow which started Friday night was so heavy that trains were called off early Saturday and were then several hours late. The Ann Arbor railroad did not even get its motor service re-established at that time. The only train to come into Alma during the storm, was the early morning train Saturday from Mt. Pleasant and it could not proceed beyond here. Monday it started out from Alma, with a snow-plow just ahead of it. The plow got stuck in a ten foot drift this side of Ithaca and the passengers for the county seat walked in a mile.

Here in Alma the high wind drove the snow before it, striking pedestrians in pitiless fashion, and the twenty below zero temperature added greatly to the discomfort. Many cases of frozen feet, hands, and ears were reported during the day and many others carried frosted faces before their journeys were completed. A number of cases of frozen feet and ears were reported from the Republic, where nearly all of the young ladies of the office force braved the weather to go to their work, in spite of the terrible weather.

The wind piled the snow in great drifts in the streets, making the walking almost impossible at times, and for a time it was next to impossible for automobiles to make their way up and down the streets. It kept the farmers out of the city during the day, and those running milk deliveries were unable to make their routes, although some did get around somehow. This resulted in a serious shortage of milk in Alma on Saturday and Sunday. The city delivery system was also unable to make the deliveries from the stores Saturday, and Sunday dinners were dispensed with in many cases, rather than face the bitter storm in going to the business section to make purchases.

Teams were busy for the first three days of this week cleaning up the great amount of snow which piled high in the main streets of the city, and by Wednesday evening this section of the city again assumed its ordinary aspect.

## ALMA PEOPLE MARRIED

Miss Laura Gossett and Rodney Burgess were Married January 4.

On Friday evening, January 4, Miss Laura Gossett and Mr. Rodney Burgess, both well known and popular young Alma people, were united in marriage at the home of the groom's parents in the southern part of the city. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. J. Frank Jackson, rector of St. John's church, in the presence of only the immediate relatives.

Mrs. Burgess is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James G. Gossett of this city. She is a graduate of the Alma public schools, and is held in high esteem here by a large circle of friends.

Mr. Burgess is also a graduate of the Alma public schools and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. William Burgess of this city. After graduating from Alma high school he took a course at Ferris Institute, and since that time has been employed at the Charles R. Murphy drug store in this city.

The many friends of the young couple join with the Alma Record in extending congratulations to the Newlyweds.

Madge Kennedy in "Nearly Married"—Idlehour, Sunday. Better than "Baby Mine"—adv.

## COUNTY TEACHERS MEET IN ITHACA

Gratiot County Teachers' Association Will Meet in Ithaca. The Last of Month.

## GOOD PROGRAM IS ARRANGED

Schools Will Be Closed Two Days While Teachers of the County Are at the Institute.

The 97th semi-annual Teachers' Association of Gratiot county will be held Monday and Tuesday, January 28 and 29, in the high school room in Ithaca.

A fine program has been arranged for the institute this year and a good attendance is being looked for. The program follows:

Monday—Forenoon  
9:00 Music by Association  
9:15 "Why are We Here?" Prof. Webster H. Pearce  
10:00 "Four Conditions Necessary to Successful Teaching" Supt. A. N. Cody  
10:45 Recess and Enrollment  
11:00 Music Ithaca H. S. Orchestra  
11:10 "Standards in Arithmetic" Prof. Webster H. Pearce  
11:45 Noon

Monday—Afternoon  
1:00 Singing by Association  
1:15 "Oral English—Demonstrations with Class" Supt. A. N. Cody  
2:00 "A Study of Personality" Prof. Webster H. Pearce  
2:45 Recess  
3:00 "School Problems" Supt. A. N. Cody

Monday—Evening  
7:30 Music—Ithaca H. S. Girls' Glee Club  
Invocation  
Address—"The School and the Community" Supt. A. N. Cody  
Address—"Our Country's Call" Prof. Webster H. Pearce

Tuesday—Forenoon  
8:30 Music by Association  
8:45 "A Demonstration and Address" Hon. W. N. Ferris  
9:40 "The Vitalization of Arithmetic" Prof. Webster H. Pearce  
10:20 Tenor solo, "Selected" Mr. Harold Jarvis  
10:45 "What Our Rural Schools Should Be" Hon. W. N. Ferris  
11:45 Noon

Tuesday—Afternoon  
1:00 Singing by Association  
1:25 Tenor solo, "Selected" Mr. Harold Jarvis  
2:40 "School Management" Hon. W. N. Ferris  
2:30 Tenor solo, "Selected" Mr. Harold Jarvis  
2:50 "The Master Craftsman" Prof. Webster H. Pearce

## ANNUAL MEETING

Alma Savings and Loan Association Held Annual Meeting Monday.

The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Alma Savings and Loan Association was held at the offices of the association on Monday evening, the 14th inst.

The condition of the affairs of the association was reviewed by the secretary, D. L. Johnson, for the benefit of the assembled stockholders and a 3 1/2 per cent semi-annual dividend was distributed. Charles G. Rhodes, Charles H. Smith and Frank E. Polasky were elected directors to succeed themselves for three years. After the adjournment of the stockholders meeting, the directors organized, electing the following officers: President, F. E. Pollasky; vice-president, C. G. Rhodes; treasurer, C. O. Ward; secretary, D. L. Johnson. The other directors are: E. B. Soule, J. E. Mitchell, Otto Sanderhoff, C. H. Smith and L. N. Baker.

The Alma Savings & Loan Association has been in existence for over thirty years, and during that time has assisted many Alma citizens in acquiring and paying for homes. Others have found the association a safe and always profitable place for their savings, often realizing a larger interest rate than is secured on time loans, and without the trouble or expense of making collections, recording papers, etc.

As the funds of the association are all loaned on real estate first mortgages, approved by its Board of Directors, the element of safety is equal to that of the soundest banks.

## ANNUAL MEETING HELD

Stockholders of the Alma Land Contract company held their annual meeting on the 8th inst., electing the following officers and directors: Otto Sanderhoff, president; William Klatt, vice-president; D. L. Johnson, secretary-treasurer. The business of this corporation, which was organized last April, is the purchase of land contracts of the local builders, thereby furnishing the means whereby modern homes may be constructed in Alma. The secretary reports the affairs of the corporation in a flourishing condition, and says the fact that payments on all contracts owned by the company are made promptly reflects the prosperity of the city.